



## ***Chapter 1:*** Introduction

## 1.0 Introduction

The purpose of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan is to establish a framework to guide the acquisition, development and improvement of park areas and facilities and the provision of arts and recreational services throughout the City of Wenatchee. It is designed to meet the City's recreational, social, and cultural needs now and into the future. This is an update to the City's 2012 adopted Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and the Growth Management Act (GMA) Comprehensive Plan Guidelines.

Parks and recreation facilities must be recognized as valuable not only to serve the needs of city residents, but also as important attribute for attracting visitors to the community. As Wenatchee grows, demands on parks and recreational facilities increase. Recreation, arts and cultural opportunities are an important measurement of community livability in that they help to build strong neighborhoods and promote a high quality of life.



Planning for community needs should be flexible to meet ever-changing demands and technological and other advances, yet comprehensive to assure that the needs of the community are consistently met. This plan examines and addresses current needs, desires and opportunities with an eye toward historical information relevant to the services provided by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department. Population, land use, and general geographic features of the community are also considerations within the plan.

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan (PROS) is adopted by reference as a part of the City of Wenatchee's Comprehensive Plan. As an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, the PROS Plan undergoes a legislative review process, including Arts, Recreation and Parks Commission, Planning Commission and City Council approval. The PROS plan provides an inventory of facilities and programs; outlines accepted standards for parks, open space, and arts and recreation facilities; establishes standards such services; and presents a strategy for providing facilities and programs to meet the needs of the City's residents and visitors.

### 1.1 Growth Management Act

The Growth Management Act (GMA) establishes goals for cities to ensure that their quality of life is sustained as their communities grow. One of these goals is to "retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreational facilities" (RCW 36.70A.020(9)). The GMA also addresses open space in requiring that

The parks and recreation element of a comprehensive plan must contain the following features:

- Projects prioritized during the planning process are included in the Capital Facilities Plan, which is updated annually.

The planning area for this process includes the Wenatchee City limits and the adopted Urban Growth Area (UGA). The City recognizes that there is the possibility that sometime in the future the UGA boundary may change and if it does, the PROS Plan will be modified to address the change.

Sources: Esri HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRIAN, GeoBasis, IGN, Vektor, N.L. Ordnance, Sweco, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



be incorporated into the City so the proposed facilities, population, level-of-service and any other recommendations projected include both the existing City and the entire UGA. If all of these areas are not annexed then some of the recommendations would not be implemented.

### 1.3 Objectives and Approach

The specific objectives of this planning effort are to:

- Describe the community setting to establish the framework within which park, arts, recreation, and open space facilities should be provided, including natural areas, developed park areas and current recreation trends and demographics.
- Inventory the existing park system including lands owned and operated by the city or other public agencies, both within the planning area and beyond. The planning area is defined in the previous section of this chapter.
- Analyze needs and opportunities for future park, art, recreation, and open space facilities and programs and develop recommendations for meeting those needs.
- Identify and establish goals and objectives to be met and objectives to carry out those goals as the PROS Plan is implemented.
- Adopt a level-of-service which is based on the existing park system and the recommendations of the community to establish proposed level of service standards to help guide development of the park system over the next 10 to 15 years.
- Create an implementation plan that establishes the overall estimated cost of achieving the proposed level-of-service that is based on the community's recommendations, prioritize those recommendations, and develop a plan to implement the priority recommendations through the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). In addition, develop general strategies to be considered which respond to the projected population growth over the next ten years.



Public input is important to a community-based parks, recreation and open space plan. This input process spanned the period of nine months. The citizen members of the Arts, Recreation and Parks Commission served as the Steering Committee to help oversee the

process, provide input and evaluate the recommendations. A web-based survey, public workshops and meetings were also conducted to augment and inform the Committee's discussions. The public involvement process included the following:

MEETING	TOPIC	MONTH
ARP Commission	Planning Process	September 2016
ARP Commission	Web Survey Review	October 2016
ARP Commission	Chapter 1 Draft Review	November 2016
	Web Survey	Nov 2016 – Jan 2017
ARP Commission	Chapters 2 and 3 Review	January 2017
ARP Commission	Chapters 4, 5 and 6 Review	February 2017
Open House	Input and review	February 2017
	State RCO Review	February 2017
ARP Commission	Appendix C Review	March 2017
City Council	Work Session – Full Draft Review	March 2017
ARP Commission	Full Draft Review	April 2017
ARP Commission	Final Draft Review	May 2017
City Council	Regular Meeting	June 2017

## 1.4 Previous Plans

This PROS Plan, prepared in 2016-2017, builds on previous comprehensive planning efforts by updating the 2012-18 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan and the Parks and Recreation element of the 2017 City Comprehensive Plan.

Along with the 2012-18 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan and its supporting documents and referenced plans, a number of recently completed local planning documents and studies were referenced in the creation of the PROS Plan. These included:

- 2017 City of Wenatchee Comprehensive Plan
- 2017 North Wenatchee Master Plan
- 2016 South Wenatchee Subarea Action Plan
- 2016 Our Valley What's Next Community Survey and Report
- 2016 Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire Report
- 2015 Comprehensive Arts Plan
- 2015-19 Chelan County PUD Strategic Plan
- 2015 Habitat Plan
- 2013 Wenatchee Recreation Pricing Plan
- 2013 Washington Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- 2012 Washington State Plan for Healthy Communities
- 2012 Wenatchee Sustainable Design Assessment Team Report

Summaries of these and other documents and studies used in the creation of this plan are contained in the Demand and Need chapter of this plan.

## 1.5 Plan Document

This plan is organized into six chapters and appendices including:

- Introduction;
- Planning Area;
- Existing Resources;
- Demand and Need Assessment;
- Guiding Framework;
- Implementation.

Appendices include:

- Detailed information on existing park areas;
- Capital Improvement Plan details;
- Public survey results;
- Project Prioritization matrices.

